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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR IO/RHS AMY OSTERMEIER, COURTNEY MUSSER,
COLLEEN NEVILLE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/04/2019

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SUBJECT: JAPAN REQUIRES CONSENSUS FOR ISRAEL TO GET JUSCANZ
MEMBERSHIP

REF: STATE 91302

Classified By: POL M/C Robert Luke for Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

¶1. (C) Embassy Tokyo Political Officer delivered reftel demarche to Deputy Director Seitoku Kawakami of MOFA's Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division. Kawakami said that Japan's official position on JUSCANZ membership for Israel remains "unchanged:" "We support a consensus-based decision: nothing less, nothing more." Kawakami added that Japan sympathizes with Israel's inability to be a member of a regional group because of OIC (Organization of Islamic States) opposition. "This creates a vicious circle where Israel ignores what the UN says because it feels the U.N. is anti-Israeli, and the UN condemns Israel because it ignores what it says," Kawakami explained.

¶2. (C) Japan is concerned both about the politicization of the HRC and a disruption to the smooth management of JUSCANZ that might result if Israel were granted membership, Kawakami continued. Speaking frankly Kawakami said, "Japan has sponsored some resolutions about the DPRK and needs both African Group and OIC support for them to pass. This is a delicate issue that comes at a sensitive time." Kawakami said there is strong Japanese interest in taking part in discussions on the JUSCANZ issue in Geneva and New York.

ROOS